

Severe Weather Shelter (SWS) Rapid Testing Protocol – Asymptomatic with Close Contact

(based on direction from Unified Command and recommendations from Centers for Disease Control (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/testing.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>)

Introduction and Current Strategies

Many persons utilizing severe weather shelters may be experiencing homelessness and have underlying medical conditions which puts them at risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the severe weather shelters a number of layered mitigation steps have been implemented, including but not limited to:

- volunteers and staff wear personal protective equipment (PPE) (procedure masks, KN95s, gloves, face shields);
- common areas are disinfected before and after the shelter is open;
- guests are screened for symptoms upon entry;
- guests are required to wear masks indoors when not at their cot/mat, and
- social distancing is encouraged

Additional Screening with Rapid Antigen Testing

Rapid Testing for SARS-CoV-2 may be available to be incorporated into the screening process upon entry for guests at the severe weather shelters. **Direction from Unified Command is that screening tests are intended to identify people who are asymptomatic and have known, suspected, or reported exposure to SARS-CoV-2. Screening helps to identify asymptomatic cases with close contacts* so that measures may be taken to prevent further transmission.** Rapid testing may be provided on a voluntary basis to assist in screening guests upon entry for asymptomatic guests with close contact exposure*, as supplies are available.

***Close Contact Definition**

Close contacts are someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes.

Date of exposure is counted as day 0.

Guests must give consent to be tested, and provided with:

- their test results;
- information about the test provided including what the results mean;
- information on who will receive the results; and
- any consequences for declining testing (asymptomatic guests with close contacts refusing testing may be referred to Q&I).

Frequency Interval of Testing

CDC suggests testing based on the level of community transmission in homeless shelters. Currently as of 1/13/2022 community transmission is **HIGH**.

Testing Schedule Based on Community Transmission Level				
Community Transmission Level	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
Asymptomatic Persons with <u>Close Contact</u> in the last 10 days	No testing	Each activation night until end of 10-day period (or after retesting wait period per kit instructions)		
Persons with any COVID-19 symptoms	Refer to Q&I	Refer to Q&I	Refer to Q&I	Refer to Q&I
Notes	If a guest tests positive and has been at the shelter within the past week, test facility-wide If a guest is asymptomatic with a close contact* but refuses testing they may be referred to Q&I.			

Based on : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/testing.html>

SWS Volunteer Training for Administering Rapid Antigen Tests

Volunteers interested in being able to provide instruction for self-testing will follow the instructions for testing by watching a training video provided by the testing kit provider, or if no video is available, reviewing the printed instructions. Volunteers will complete a short quiz at [SWS RAPID TESTING AFFIRMATION AND QUIZ](#) to confirm that they have viewed the training video as required. The quiz results will be provided to Kitsap County Housing and Homelessness Division (KCHHD) and Kitsap Department of Emergency Management (KCDEM).

Establishing a Waiting Area

Set up a waiting area for guests to wait 10-15 minutes for their results if the facility has the space to accommodate a waiting area prior to entering the shared shelter space. Seating should be 6 six feet apart and guests should wear masks anytime they are in the waiting area, or in any shared space shelter space while not on their cot. Seating should be disinfected after the guest leaves the waiting area.

If a shelter does not have a possible area for guests to wait for their test results. Ensure the guest is wearing a mask and direct them to a cot/mat to await their results. Guests should wear their mask and stay at the cot/mat until the test result is provided. If a guest tests negative, they may remove their mask while at their cot/mat and follow regular rules within the shelter. If the guest tests positive they should be moved to an isolated area or outside and a referral to Q&I should be initiated. The bed the guest was occupying should be disinfected and bedding changed.

Steps for Administering Testing

Staff or volunteers will provide testing supplies as available and assist guests in performing antigen rapid testing with the following steps:

1. Proctors instructing guests on how to self-swab must watch a training video, or read instructions, and take the quiz before instructing on any tests.

2. Obtain client consent and provide testing information handout.
3. Follow the instructions for completing the test from the testing kit provider.
 - a. Detailed step information will be provided based on test kits available.
4. Have the recording staff/helper ensure the individual is appropriately matched to the device (either write a number on the device and record the guest's name, or lay devices out on paper with written names/numbers next to device).
5. Ensure proper sanitation to avoid cross contamination.
6. After the waiting period specified by the testing kit, read and interpret the test device.

Interpreting Results

Negative: Refer to the test kit instructions on how to interpret a negative test result. These tests generally have a control line which helps to detect that the test was done correctly, but no COVID-19 antigen was detected.

- Inform the guest of their results.

Positive: Refer to the test kit instructions on how to interpret a positive test result. These tests will often include a control line which helps to detect that the test was performed properly, and a separate indicator for a positive antigen test. Even a very faint test result line when accompanied by a control line indicates a positive result.

- Move the guest to an isolated area.
- Inform the guest of their results and follow the Referral to Q&I Guidance for Community Based-Organizations.
- Any positive cases will need to be reported to the local Health Department and the Washington Dept of Health (DOH) using a "Washington State COVID-19 Point of Care Test Result Report Form". This form contains personally identifying information (PII) and cannot be submitted via standard email. You may submit reports by:
 - Fax – Fax the form to both KPDH at 360-813-1168 and DOH at 206-512-2126.
 - Secure Upload – if fax is unavailable you may upload the form by secure method at the following link [SWS DOCUMENT UPLOAD](#) and KCHHD staff will submit the documentation via fax.
 - By phone – During business hours you can contact KPDH with reporting questions at 360-728-2235.
- Please notify your site manager of any cases with positive test results and referral to Q&I. Site managers should inform KCHHD staff the following day.

Invalid: Refer to the test kit instructions on how to interpret an invalid test result. If the control line is not visible, the result is invalid.

- Re-administer the test if possible.

Disposal of Used Test Kits

Follow the instructions for proper disposal of the used tests and materials. Generally, all components of the test kits can be discarded as normal waste using standard trash liners.